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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

July 29, 2002

**The Honorable Sam Brownback
United States Senate**

My dear Sam:

First of all, my old ticker is doing fairly well but I am counseled to delay a few more weeks in returning to the Senate. I miss you and some others increasingly, however.

Sam, you have been such a leader on advancing the freedoms of those who have been unable to secure it for themselves despite the arrival of the 21st century. Yours was the first Senate voice to draw attention to the plight of women in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan and countless others being trafficked across countries for use in prostitution brothels.

As I wind down my years in the Senate I offer my sincere gratitude that senators like you will remain here to continue the fight for a moral foreign policy.

Unfortunately, some are confusing the very clear moral imperative to secure basic freedoms and liberties for women with pretense that a need exists to ratify the United Nations Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

The documented radical agenda of the Committee established by CEDAW is undisputed. (Among other things, that committee has directed China to legalize prostitution and has criticized Belarus for establishing Mother's Day.)

These findings are simply out of step with generally held values of democratic nations. Moreover, there can be no doubt that CEDAW supporters are attempting to use this treaty to advance a radical abortion agenda.

This is evident in committee reports directing Ireland to legalize abortion, and criticizing Ireland for the Church's influence in public policy.

The Honorable Sam Brownback

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I understand that some members on our Committee, who are advocating for CEDAW, are attempting to brush aside abortion concerns by citing the so-called "Helms Amendment" that was offered as a resolution of ratification in 1994 when the Foreign Relations Committee last reported CEDAW. The suggestion has been made by these CEDAW supporters that this language adequately addresses the abortion issue.

I strongly disagree. It is true that at that time I attempted to include a provision to provide at least minimal protection against abortion should that treaty enter into force. However, the negotiated provision of my proposal was so watered-down, that the amendment would not result in that CEDAW's radical abortion agenda being eliminated.

Just to the contrary, which is why I voted against CEDAW in 1994 and would do so again if I had been able to attend the Committee's deliberations on CEDAW this week.

Sam, I greatly admire, appreciate and respect all that you are doing to protect the unborn and to advance basic human rights consistent with a pro-family agenda. The Lord will bless you for your courage and your conviction to stand up for principles that deserve to survive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jesse", with a stylized, cursive flourish at the end.

JESSE HELMS